REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

Claims 1-4 and 6-22 were previously pending and under consideration.

Claim 20 is cancelled.

Claims 10, 11, 16, 21 and 22 are allowed.

Claims 1-4, 6-9, 12-15, and 17-20 are rejected.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-9, and 12-15 are amended herein.

No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

ENTRY OF AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR §1.116

Applicant requests entry of this Rule 116 Response because:

(a) it is believed that the amendment of the claims puts this application into condition for allowance as suggested by the Examiner's allowance of claim 21;

(b) the amendments of the claims, based on allowed claim 21, should not entail any further search by the Examiner since no new features are being added or no new issues are being raised; and

(c) the amendments do not significantly alter the scope of the claims and place the application at least into a better form for purposes of appeal. No new features or new issues are being raised.

The Manual of Patent Examining Procedures sets forth in Section 714.12 that "any amendment that would place the case either in condition for allowance or in better form for appeal may be entered." Moreover, Section 714.13 sets forth that "the Proposed Amendment should be given sufficient consideration to determine whether the claims are in condition for allowance and/or whether the issues on appeal are simplified." The Manual of Patent Examining Procedures further articulates that the reason for any non-entry should be explained expressly in the Advisory Action.

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REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC § 103

In the Office Action, at pages 2-7, claims 1-4, 6-9, 12-15 and 17-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Herman and Houvener in view of Chang. This rejection is traversed and reconsideration is requested.

In the Final Office Action of August 31, 2004, claims 1 and 13-15 were rejected. Claim 21 was allowed. Although the reason for allowance of claim 21 was not stated in the Final Office Action, claims 1 and 13-15 have been amended to include features similar to features of claim 21.

Claim 21 recites starting a transaction between a user's client and a transaction server. Claims 1 and 13-15 now recite a "transaction session" as in claim 21. Claim 1, for example, now recites "issuing, when a user with a terminal starts a transaction session via the network, a session identification code".

Claim 21 recites responsive to the starting of the transaction session, issuing over the network to the client a session identifier string that comprises a combination of a transaction identifier and a security token. The transaction identifier identifies and orders the transaction session relative to other transaction sessions handled by the transaction server. Claim 1, for example, now recites "a serial number [that] identifies the started transaction session and indicates a transaction order in which the transaction session with the user was started relative to other transactions of the transaction system".

Claim 21 recites automatically receiving and displaying the session identifier at the client and allowing the user to interactively add and remove commodities to be purchased via the transaction session during different client-server exchanges that are linked by the transaction server as a single session by the transaction server using the displayed session identifier. Claim 1, for example, is amended to recite that "the issued session identification code is used by the transaction system to identify and manage the transaction session when the user, by exchanges via the network between the user's terminal and the transaction system, interactively adds/removes commodities to/from the transaction session before its completion". The code is transmitted to the terminal during the transaction session for display.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 13-15 is respectfully requested.

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DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The dependent claims are deemed patentable due at least to their dependence from allowable independent claims. These claims are also patentable due to their recitation of independently distinguishing features. For example, claim 8 recites that "the identification code is invalidated when a predetermined period of time elapses before the user decides to purchase the selected commodity after the issuance of the identification code". This feature is not taught or suggested by the prior art. Withdrawal of the rejection of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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